January 30, 1845

Today we started from Santa Fe and we are heading for Northern California, where they say the gold is as old as Granny (now that’s pretty old). And as for workers we have about seven men we had a doctor, carpenter, Fred was a gatherer, and Charlie was a hunter just as some examples. And when we started out in the desert we came upon a Indian stomping ground and we were not very welcomed they were of the Mohawk tribe and they weren’t going to let us pass without a fight and we lost a couple of men and some were critically wounded. Just as well we kept going and we had to set up a short camp because of the tireless effort of our men. And we also ran out of water and gun powder so we had to make a pit stop and when we stopped we arrived at the most beautiful little lake I’ve ever seen in my day I tell you. And Marie when I get home I can’t wait to tell you and the kids all about my travels so far o how you will laugh at some of the things that we have done, like when Junebug got his butt burnt when he sat down on the camp fire by accident you should have seen him hopping around like a grasshopper, it was very funny. And speaking of bugs, you should have seen this mammoth spider we ran into out here it was the size of both my hands and feet all put together. And we almost ran out of food out here on the plains were what they say is true it looks like a beautiful ocean of green, but any way we had to hunt now we had a huge argument because I didn’t think we should use our bullets for hunting because what if we got attacked and ran out of ammo we would be sitting ducks but any way he had to eat so we hunted deer and buffalo and they were delicious. Now as you know it is January and even out here in the west it is not at all cold during the day its not all that bad but at night it is absolutely freezing. And now we are making plans to stop in about fifteen miles, we have traveled over just about three hundred fifty miles. And with the landscape out here it is so hard to even climb a simple hill with our wagon and we faced a major cutback when one of the wagons tipped over trying tom climb a hill. And because we were running low on supplies we had to make most of our supplies out of wood like a stake, and a type of a jack. And in my journal when I send all my letters to you, you will be able to see all of what we traveled. And as the day wound down we all did our arts like I started the fire and Junebug got me some extra wood.

By: Leonard W.